

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

July 5, 2006

With over 87,000 employees and a budget exceeding \$19 billion, Los Angeles County is the largest single employer in the five-County area of Southern California as reported by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. Like most major employers, public and private, Los Angeles County has an interest in recruiting and retaining qualified, experienced and motivated employees.

We, in Los Angeles County, must also contend with the higher living standards in areas of housing, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and other necessary quality of life issues. I understand that various County departments are experiencing great difficulty in filling critical vacancies at all levels, including nurses, sheriff deputies, and other areas.

There are some benefits that could be made available to our employees at no cost or

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risk to the County. For example, the County Treasurer currently has contracts for various banking services on behalf of the Treasury Pool participants with most of the major banks, including Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Bank of the West, Union Bank, and others. It is now customary for banks to voluntarily offer priority services to employees of their major commercial accounts. These enhanced features include special CD rate promotions, discounted loan fees, free checking, and other banking services. These programs are typically offered to employees who sign up for direct deposit – with no risk or cost to the commercial account holder.

I understand that several public agencies participate in similar programs including the Cities of Torrance, West Hollywood, Ontario, Fontana, Walnut, Santa Monica, Irvine, Inglewood and Pasadena. In addition, the Los Angeles Unified School District, San Francisco Unified School District, Riverside County Office of Education, and the County of San Bernardino make these programs available to their employees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the County Treasurer to authorize those banks with whom the County does business to participate in offering “Group Banking” or similar type programs to County employees and employees of our Treasury Pool participants; and
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer – Office of Workplace Programs and the Auditor-Controller to offer their support in disseminating information on these programs to our employees through newsletters and other appropriate means at no cost to the County.

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